

Categorical Exclusion Determination and Decision Record for Beaver Dam Exclosure Planting OR115-08-32

Description of Proposed Action

The Butte Falls Resource Area proposes to plant five acres along Beaver Dam Creek in two existing cattle exclosures. A mixture of native conifer and hardwood tree seedlings would be planted by hand method.

The project is located in section 9, Township 34 South, Range 3 East, Willamette Meridian, Jackson County, Oregon.

Plan Conformance Review

The Bureau of Land Management did not scope this proposal and the public was not involved in its development. This proposal is consistent with policy directed by the following:

- *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994);
- *Final-Medford District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995);
- *Record of Decision To Remove the Survey and Manage Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines from the Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plans Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (USDI 2007); and
- Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998) and tiered to the Final-Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS, 1985).

The proposed action is in conformance with the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District by the Oregon and California Lands Act of 1937, Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Clean Water Act of 1987, Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (as amended 1986 and 1996), Clean Air Act of 1990 (as amended), and Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979.

This proposal is consistent with management direction in the Medford District Resource Management Plan that directs the BLM to “Design and implement fish habitat restoration and enhancement activities in a manner that contributes to attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy and riparian reserve objectives” (USDI 1995, p. 49).

Project Design Features

1. Plant seedlings along designated flag lines.
2. All vehicles will stay on existing roads.
3. Minimize ground disturbance and damage to adjacent trees while planting vegetation.

4. Should any cultural and/or historic resource values be discovered during planting all activities in the vicinity shall cease until the resource values are evaluated, and permission to resume operations is given by the Authorized Officer.

Categorical Exclusion Determination

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion as provided in United States Department of the Interior Departmental Manual 516 DM 11.9 D (10). This section allows for (10) Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices (e.g., mats/straw/chips), and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands. Such activities:

- (a) Shall not exceed 4,500 acres per prescribed fire project and 1,000 acres for other vegetation management projects;
- (b) Shall not be conducted in Wilderness areas or Wilderness Study Areas;
- (c) Shall not include the use of herbicides, pesticides, biological treatments or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure;
- (d) May include temporary roads which are defined as roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the BLM transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. Temporary roads shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources; and
- (e) Shall require the treatment of temporary roads constructed or used so as to permit the reestablishment, by artificial or natural means, of vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

Before any action described in the list of categorical exclusions may be used, the “extraordinary circumstances,” included in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, must be reviewed for applicability. After review, the BLM determined no extraordinary circumstances exist that would cause the proposed action to have a significant environmental effect. The action will not require additional analysis.

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this project, contact Daryl Jackson, Project Leader, at (541) 471-6618.

NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review

Proposed Action: Plant five acres along Beaver Dam Creek in two existing cattle exclosures as described above.

Department of the Interior Manual 516 2.3.A(3) provides for a review of the following criteria for categorical exclusion to determine if exceptions apply to the proposed action based on actions which may:

1. *Have significant impacts on public health or safety.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial OW Remarks:

2. *Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resource; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial AS Remarks:

3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial OW Remarks:

4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial OW Remarks:

5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial OW Remarks:

6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial SLS Remarks:

7. *Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial AS Remarks:

8. *Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.*

Plants ☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial mw

Remarks: *survey complete, no sites outside FR6E range*

Animals ☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial DR

Remarks:

Fish ☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial SL

Remarks:

9. *Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QW

Remarks:

10. *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial QW

Remarks:

11. *Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial AS

Remarks:

12. *Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).*

☐ Yes ☒ No

Initial mw

Remarks:

June, 2008

Decision

Based on the attached NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the planting of seedlings as described above.

Decision Rationale

The proposed action has been reviewed by Butte Falls Resource Area staff and appropriate Project Design Features, as specified above, will be incorporated into the proposal. Based on the attached NEPA Categorical Exclusion Review, I have determined the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further environmental analysis is required.

Christopher J. McAlear
Field Manager
Butte Falls Resource Area

9/17/08

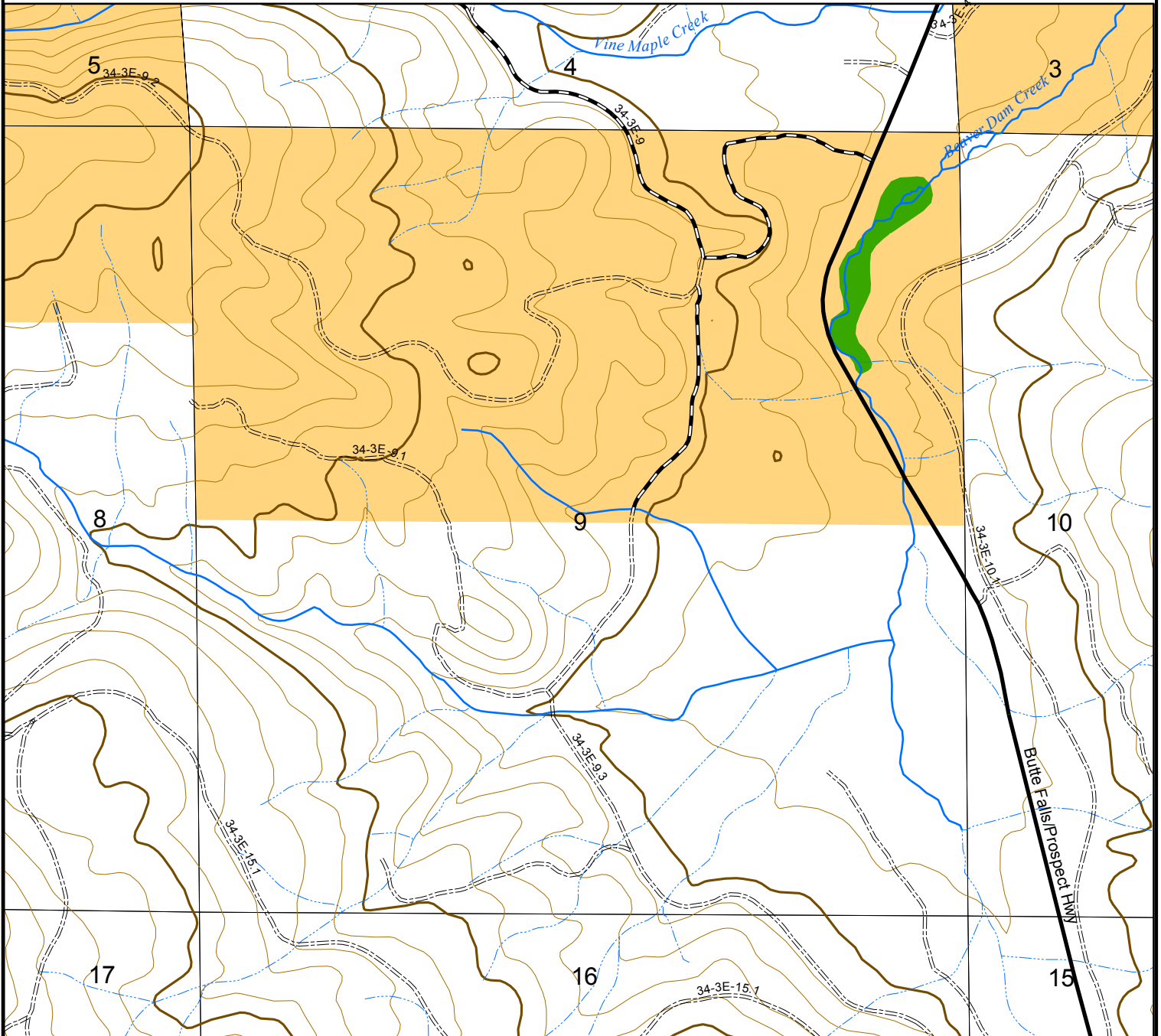
Date _____

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

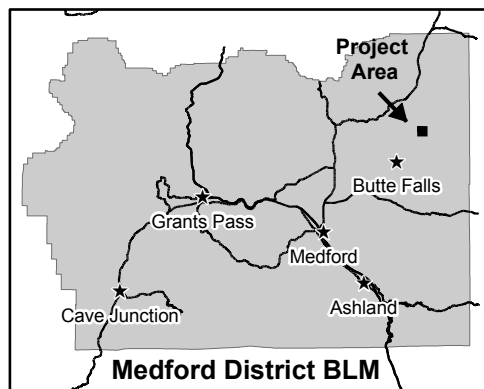
This decision is effective upon signing by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect pending any protest. The action is subject to protest under 43 CFR section 4.450-2. A decision in response to a protest is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR part 4.

Beaver Dam Creek Cattle Exclosure Riparian Planting Project

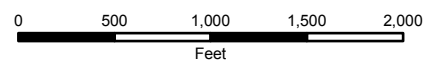
T34S-R3E Sec. 9
OR115-08-32



- Riparian Planting Project
- Paved
- Rock or Gravel
- Natural
- Perennial Stream
- Intermittent Stream
- 40 ft. Intermediate Contour
- 200 ft. Index Contour
- BLM-Administered
- Private



Scale 1:12,000



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Medford District
September 2008



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Reviewers:

Name	Title	Date	Initials
Jean Williams	NEPA Coordinator	9/12/08	JW
Marcia Wineteer	Botanist	6/24/08	mw
Dave Roelofs	Wildlife Biologist	6/11/08	DR
Steve Liebhardt	Fisheries Biologist	6/12/08	SL
Shawn Simpson	Hydrologist	6/12/08	SLS
Ken Van Etten	Soil Scientist	7/8/08	KBV
Leanne Mruzik	Fire/Fuels Specialist	6/17/08	LM
AMY SOBIECH John McNeel	Cultural Technician	9/10/08	AS
Randy Bryan	Engineer	6-12-08	RRB
Trish Lindaman	Outdoor Recreation Planner	6-16-08	TL